

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please insert the following new paragraph at page 1, line 1 of the specification:

This application is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/599,311, filed June 22, 2000.

Please amend the last paragraph of page 11 as shown below.

A suitable TCAM for use with the present invention is described in commonly owned co-pending U.S. Patent Appl. Ser. No. 6,389,506 to Ross et al. for a Block Mask Ternary Cam-09/130,890, filed August 7, 1998, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. Other suitable TCAMs are commercially available from NetLogic Microsystems, Inc. of Mountain View, California and Music Semiconductors of Hackensack, New Jersey.